

Claim 24 (New) A food processor comprising:

a housing comprising at least one blade for piercing and cutting food, each of said blades having side surface portions and a cutting tip edge portion;

a base provided with openings through which the at least one blade can pass to pierce and cut food, said base comprising a fixed base portion and a removable base portion, said removable base portion being provided with a sufficient number of longitudinal slots open at one end of the slots so that the slots in the removable base portion can be placed over the side surface portions of each of the blades without encountering the cutting tip edge portions of each of the blades;

mating structure on the removable base portion and the fixed base portion that releaseably operably secures the removable base portion to the fixed base portion; and,

retraction structure joining the fixed base portion to the housing and permitting retraction of the base relative to the housing so that upon retraction the blades extend through the slots and beyond the base to pierce and cutting food in contract with the base.